

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00192 070729Z

15

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-11 USPS-02 USSS-00 FBIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 IO-14

PRS-01 SAM-01 CU-04 OPR-02 SS-20 L-03 SCA-01 /146 W

----- 088451

R 070620Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1520

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0192

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

PRETORIA FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS BC SF

SUBJ: DEATH OF SASO LEADER TIRO

REF: GABORONE 184

1. GOB POLICE SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY IN CONFIDENCE THAT EXAMINATION OF PACKAGE FRAGMENTS OF BOMB WHICH KILLED ABRAHAM ONKGOPOTSE TIRO HAVE SHOWN THAT PACKAGE WAS AIR MAILED FROM GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT PACKAGE WEIGHED BETWEEN ONE AND TWO POUNDS AND EMPLOYED A PRESSURE FIRING DEVICE RELATIVELY NEW TO PARCEL BOMBS. BOMB WAS IGNITED BY DEVICE SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN HAND GRENADES, WITH TRIGGER HELD DOWN BY PRESSURE FOR THE CARDBOARD AND HEAVY STRING (APPROX. FIVE LBS. PRESSURE) WHICH DETONATES EXPLOSIVE WHEN PRESSURE RELEASED. A SAFETY
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PAGE 02 GABORO 00192 070729Z

LATCH OR PIN WAS PROBABLY REMOVED FROM THE BOMB THROUGH

A TINY HOLE IN THE PARCEL PRIOR TO MAILING. EXACT COMPOSITION OF EXPLOSIVE NOT YET DETERMINED BUT SAMPLE HAVE BEEN SENT TO LONDON FOR ANALYSIS.

2. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE NAME "ERIKSSON" WHICH APPEARED AS THE SENDER ON THE PARCEL IS A SWEDISH CITIZEN RESIDENT IN GENEVA ATTACHED TO SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY PROGRAM. NOTE- RAND DAILY MAIL OF FEB 5 STATED THAT PACKAGE WAS STAMPED BY "INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE FUND" IN GENEVA. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT TIRO RECEIVED FUNDS FROM ERIKSSON AND PERHAPS PASSED ALONG INFORMATION ON SASO ACTIVITIES TO HIM. IT SEEMS THAT TIRO ON OCCASION TALKED ABOUT HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE GENEVA ORGANIZATION, WHICH ALLEGEDLY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN AIDING STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD, AND THERE IS SPECULATION THAT ERIKSSON'S ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE COME TO CONSIDER TIRO A LIABILITY.

3. POLICE HERE APPARENTLY SATISFIED THAT PARCEL WAS MADE IN AND MAILED FROM EUROPE AND NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO ANY SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCE. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS FACT THAT ADHESIVE ON SWISS POSTAGE STAMPS WAS REMOVED AND STAMPS WERE AFFIXED WITH GLUE. THIS IS SEEN AS ATTEMPT TO MAKE PARCEL LOOK LIKE A SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCT AND OBSCURE ITS GENEVA ORIGINS. NELSON

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Message Attributes

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